(b) Yes sir, the Corporation has purchased the entire quantity of kapas offered to it in APMC regulated market yards by the cotton farmers under Minimum Support Price operations. Further, in order to ensure remunerative prices to the cotton farmers and avoid distress sales, the Corporation has also purchased kapas three stages below Fair Average Quality (FAQ) grade and all these purchases have been made from the notified market yards in the presence of APMC officials.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for Fair Average Quality (FAQ) grade of two basic varieties of kapas *viz.*, J-34 and H-4 are fixed by the Government of India every year and based on market differentials; the MSPs for other varieties are fixed by the Office of the Textile Commissioner. The MSPs are fixed keeping the view the cost of cultivationand a reasonable margin of profit to the cotton farmers. CCI makes purchases of FAQ grade kapas at the MSPs so fixed by the Government of India. However, for effecting purchases of below FAQ grade kapas, suitable deductions are made from the MSP rates so as to make the prices remunerative and commensurate with quality of kapas.

Development of Jute Industry

2708. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to develop jute industry;

(b) if so, the details of the action plan indicating the amount sanctioned for investment in this sector;

(c) the measures taken by Government for the revival of sick units; and

(d) the numbers of jobs that would be generated with the revival of the sick industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Government has initiated various schemes for the development of the jute industry, These are:

(i) Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme launched by Ministry of Textiles and nodal agency for jute industry is Industrial Finance

Corporation of India Ltd. (IFCI). It provides an interest subsidy of 5% and an amount of 74.87 crores has been disbursed under this scheme for Jute Sector.

(ii) The Jute Manufactures Development Council (JMDC) Incentive scheme for modernization fo jute industry under which a Capital subsidy at 15% of cost of machinery and equipment is allowed (20% for new mills established in jute growing areas having inadequate processing facilities).

(iii) Extension of External Market Assistance Scheme (EMA) of JMDC, till 31-03-2007. As on date there is an arrear of nearly Rs. 56.80 crores towards payment of EMA to beneficiaries. Nearly 80% of the Non Plan grants of JMDC is spent on providing EMA.

(iv) Jute Manufactures Development Council and the National Centre for Jute Diversification have been organizing exhibitions/fairs/sales, buyer-seller meets, sponsoring market exploratory missions and holding domestic and international seminars and workshop for jute products.

(v) Launching of National Jute Policy-2005 on 15-04-2005.

(vi) Continuation of Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory Use in Packaging Commodities) Act, 1987 keeping in view the interests of raw jute growers and workers involved in the jute industry. Under this Act, at present, for the jute year 2005-06 (July-June) 100% foodgrains and suggar are required to be compulsorily packed in the jute.

(vii) Technology Mission on Jute which has been approved in principle by the Planning Commisison with an outlay of Rs. 355.55 crores, and is likely to be launched soon jointly by Ministry of Textiles and Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.

(c) As per existing statute, cases of sick unit are referred to Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), a quasi judicial body to examine the case for rehabilitation of every sick unit. Thereafter, the revival scheme of the units are prepared/examined by the Operating Agency appointed by BIFR which is normally a financial institution. On receipt of the scheme, BIFR decides the cases or rehabilitation of the individual units.

(d) the revival of sick mills will enable generation of a large number of employment.

Proposals of Chhattisgarh pending with Development Commissioner, Handloom

†2709. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals submitted by Government of Chhattisgarh pending with Development Commissioner, Handloom in the Ministry;

(b) the reasons for delay in according sanction to the said proposals;

(c) by when the proposals will be accorded sanction; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The Government of India has been implementing the following schemes for the development of handloom sector and welfare for handloom weavers throughout the country, including the State of Chhattisgarh:

1. Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana
2. Marketing Promotion Programme
3. Handloom Export Scheme
4. Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme
5. Weavers Welfare scheme comprising:—

   Health Insurance Scheme

   Thrift Fund Scheme

   New Insurance Scheme
6. Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana.
7. Integrated Handloom Training Project.
8. Integrated Handloom Cluster Development Scheme
9. Implementation of Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.